

# Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Adults With Neurodegenerative Diseases (The AOTA Practice Guidelines Series)

Katharine Preissner



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Neurodegenerative diseases (NDDs), which involve progressive damage to function and structure neurons, are chronic, progressive, generally incurable, and sometimes fatal. The types and severity of impairments, as well as their impact on daily living, vary greatly from person to person. As a result, people with NDD often face long-term, changing levels of disability and must learn to cope with and manage disability over time.

This Practice Guideline discusses the etiology, epidemiology, and incidence of multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, and transverse myelitis to provide background information for readers to understand how each disease can lead to disability and thus the need for occupational therapy services. Using an evidence-based perspective and key concepts from the *Occupational Therapy Practice Framework: Domain and Process*, this guideline provides an overview of the occupational therapy process and defines the occupational therapy domain and interventions that occur within the boundaries of acceptable practice, as well as explains the evidence available to support these interventions.

Practice guidelines can be a useful tool for improving the quality of health care, enhancing consumer satisfaction, promoting appropriate use of services, and reducing costs. It is the intention of this publication to help occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants, as well as the individuals who manage, reimburse, or set policy regarding occupational therapy services, understand the contribution of occupational therapy in providing services to adults with NDD. This guideline can also serve as a reference for health care professionals, health care facility managers, education and health care regulators, third-party payers, and managed care organizations. Selected diagnostic and billing code information for evaluations and interventions are provided in appendixes.

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